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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
11 Plaintiff,
12 v.
13

14 HOPELYN RHIANNON AUSK,
15 Defendant.
16

CASE NO. 2:20-CR-00204-JAM
STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

17 **I. STIPULATION**

18 1. Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and Defendant
19 Hopelyn Rhiannon Ausk (“defendant”), by and through her respective counsel of record (collectively,
20 the “parties”), for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and jointly request that the Court
21 enter a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials containing
22 personal identifying information of real persons and other confidential information of victims, witnesses,
23 and third parties.

24 2. On September 3, 2020, the United States filed a Criminal Complaint charging the
25 defendant with one count of bank fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344. ECF 1. On October 29, 2020,
26 a federal grand jury indicted the defendant on charges of mail fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341;
27 bank fraud, in violation of 18 U.C.C. § 1344; aggravated identity theft, in violation of 18 U.S.C.
28 § 1028A(a)(1); possession of stolen mail, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1708; unlawful possession of

1 Postal Service keys, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1704; and obstruction of justice, in violation of 18
2 U.S.C. § 1512. ECF 13. Defendant is currently detained pending trial. ECF 9.

3 3. As part of its investigation in the above-captioned case, the United States is in possession
4 of documents relating to the charges against the defendant, and seeks to provide those documents to
5 counsel for the defendant. Some of the materials may exceed the scope of the United States' discovery
6 obligations, but will be produced to promote a prompt and just resolution or trial of the case.

7 4. The United States intends to produce to the Defense Team, as defined below, materials
8 containing personal identifying information ("PII") and other confidential information of real persons
9 and entities, including, among other things, personal names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security
10 numbers, employers, credit/debit card numbers, and bank account numbers. These real persons and
11 entities are victims, witnesses, or third parties to this case.

12 5. The purpose of the proposed Protective Order is to prevent the unauthorized
13 dissemination, distribution, or use of materials containing the PII and confidential information of others.
14 If this information is disclosed without protective measures, or to defendant without limitation, it will
15 risk the privacy and security of the people to whom the information relates. The information could itself
16 be used to further criminal activity if improperly disclosed or used. The United States has ongoing
17 statutory and ethical obligations to protect victims.

18 6. Due to the nature of the charges and the alleged conduct in this case, PII and other
19 confidential information make up a significant part of the discovery materials in this case and such
20 information itself, in many instances, has evidentiary value. The documentary evidence contains a very
21 large quantity of privacy-protected information that would be difficult or time-consuming to redact.
22 Further, if the government were to attempt to redact all this information, the defense would receive a set
23 of discovery that would be highly confusing and difficult to understand, and could inhibit prompt and
24 just resolution of the case or preparation for trial.

25 7. Accordingly, the parties jointly request a Protective Order that will permit the United
26 States to produce discovery that is unredacted, but preserves the privacy and security of victims, witness,
27 and third parties. The parties agree that the following conditions, if ordered by the Court in the proposed
28 Protective Order, will serve the government's interest in maintaining the privacy and security of victims

1 and third parties, while permitting the Defense Team to understand the United States’ evidence against
2 the defendant.

3 8. This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of
4 Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

5 **II. PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

6 **A. Protected Materials**

7 9. This Order pertains to all discovery provided or made available to defense counsel in this
8 case that contains “Personal Identifying Information” as defined below (hereafter, collectively
9 “Protected Materials”).

10 10. For purposes of the Protective Order, the term “Personal Identifying Information” (“PII”)
11 includes: any information within the definition of a “means of identification” under 18 U.S.C. §
12 1028(d)(7) – including home addresses and personal phone numbers – or any information within the
13 definition of an “access device” under 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(1), for anyone other than the defendant.
14 Discovery pages not containing PII as defined herein are not materials protected by this agreement and
15 order and may be provided to defendant as needed.

16 11. To the extent that notes are made that memorialize, in whole or in part, the PII in any
17 Protected Materials, or to the extent that copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense
18 Team, such notes, copies, or reproductions become Protected Materials, subject to the Protective Order
19 and must be handled in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

20 **B. Defense Team**

21 12. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Counsel” refers to the defendant’s counsel
22 of record.

23 13. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Team” refers to (1) the defendant’s counsel
24 of record, (2) other attorneys at defense counsel’s law firm or defense organization who may be
25 consulted regarding case strategy in the above-captioned matter, (3) defense investigators who are
26 assisting defense counsel with this case, (4) retained experts or potential experts, and (5) paralegals,
27 legal assistants, and other support staff to defendant’s counsel of record providing assistance on this
28 case. The term “Defense Team” does not include defendant, the defendant’s family, or other associates

1 of the defendant.

2 14. Defense Counsel must provide a copy of this Order to all members of the Defense Team.

3 a) Defense Counsel must obtain written acknowledgement from members of the
4 Defense Team that they are bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order, prior to
5 providing any Protected Materials to the members of the Defense Team. The written
6 acknowledgement need not be disclosed or produced to the United States unless ordered by the
7 Court.

8 b) Members of the Defense Team who are employees of the Federal Defender's
9 Office who have signed a confidentiality agreement as part of their employment are not required
10 to sign a written acknowledgement. The confidentiality agreement need not be disclosed or
11 produced to the United States unless ordered by the Court.

12 **C. Disclosure of Protected Materials**

13 15. The Defense Team shall not permit anyone other than the Defense Team to have
14 possession of the Protected Materials, including the defendant herself.

15 16. No person or party shall use any Protected Materials or information derived from
16 Protected Materials produced in this action for any purpose other than use in the above-captioned case.
17 All Protected Materials shall be used solely for the purpose of conducting and preparing for pre-trial,
18 post-trial, and appellate proceedings (both direct and collateral) and in this criminal action for no other
19 purposes whatsoever, and shall not be used for the economic or other benefit of the defendant, or any
20 third party. Protected Materials may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
21 conditions described in this Order.

22 17. The defendant may review Protected Materials in this case only in the presence of a
23 member of the Defense Team, and her Defense Counsel shall ensure that she is never left alone with any
24 Protected Materials. The defendant may not copy, keep, maintain, or otherwise possess any of such
25 Protected Materials at any time. The defendant must return any Protected Materials to the Defense
26 Team at the conclusion of any meeting at which defendant reviews the Protected Materials. The
27 defendant may not take any Protected Materials out of the room in which they are meeting with the
28 Defense Team. The defendant may not write down or memorialize any PII contained in the Protected

Materials. At the conclusion of any meeting with defendant, the member of the Defense Team present shall take with him or her all Protected Materials. At no time, under any circumstances, will any Protected Materials be left in the possession, custody, or control of the defendant, whether or not she is incarcerated.

18. The Defense Team may review Protected Materials with a witness or potential witness in this case, including the defendant, subject to the requirement above that a member of the Defense Team must be present if Protected Materials are being shown to the defendant. Before being shown any portion of the Protected Materials, however, any witness or potential witness must be informed of the existence of the Protective Order. No witness or potential witness (other than members of the Defense Team) may retain Protected Materials, or any copy thereof, after his or her review of those materials with the Defense Team is complete.

19. This Order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California from disclosing the Protected Materials to members of the United States Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, the Court, and defense.

20. Defense Counsel shall advise the United States with reasonable notice of any subpoenas, document requests, or claims for access to the Protected Materials by third parties if Defense Counsel is considering disseminating any of the Protected Materials to a third party, in order that the United States may take action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

D. Ensuring Security of Protected Materials

21. The Defense Team shall maintain the Protected Materials safely and securely, and shall exercise reasonable care in ensuring the security and confidentiality of the Protected Materials by storing the Protected Materials in a secure place, such as a locked office, or otherwise secure facility where visitors are not left unescorted.

22. A copy of the Protective Order must be stored with the discovery, in paper form and electronically.

23. To the extent that Protected Materials, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are stored electronically, the Protected Materials will be stored on a password-protected or encrypted storage medium, including a password-protected computer, or device. Encryption keys must be stored securely

and not written on the storage media that they unlock.

24. If a member of the Defense Team makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any of the Protected Materials, Defense Counsel will ensure that the following notation is written, stamped or inscribed on whatever folder, container, or media contains the copies: "PROTECTED MATERIALS-SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER." For example, if Defense Counsel makes a copy of a disc or physical file containing Protected Materials, the duplicate disc or file must be encrypted and marked with the above notation.

E. Filings

25. In the event that a party needs to file Protected Materials containing PII, or materials otherwise identified as containing confidential information of victims, witnesses, or third parties with the Court, or disclose PII in court filings, the filing should be made under seal or the material redacted to remove all PII, including information required to be redacted by Local Rules of Court.

F. Conclusion of Prosecution

26. The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this prosecution. All Protected Materials subject to the Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain subject to the Protective Order unless and until such Order is modified by the Court.

27. Upon final disposition of the case, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate proceedings, Defense Counsel shall return the Protected Materials to the government, or certify in writing that the Protected Materials have been destroyed, unless the California Rules of Professional Conduct, as interpreted by the State Bar of California, require Defense Counsel to retain the material for a longer duration of time, in which case Defense Counsel will seek appropriate modification of this Order. If any Protected Materials are used as defense exhibits, they shall be maintained with government exhibits so long as those are required to be maintained.

G. Termination or Substitution of Counsel

28. In the event that there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case, new counsel of record must join this Protective Order before any Protected Materials may be transferred from the undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel then will become Defense Counsel for purposes of this Protective Order, and become Defense Team's custodian

of materials, and shall then become responsible, upon the conclusion of appellate and post-conviction proceedings, for complying with the provisions set forth in this Protective Order. All members of the Defense Team, whether current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Protective Order and are not relieved by termination of representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

H. Redaction of Protected Materials

29. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the United States Attorney's Office from redacting PII or other confidential information in any Protected Materials.

I. Modification of Order

30. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification to the Order or from objecting to discovery it otherwise believes to be improper. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking a more restrictive protective order with regard to particular discovery items.

J. Application of Laws

31. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect or comment on the admissibility or discoverability of the Protected Materials.

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32. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the application of and the parties' compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rules, and applicable statutes.

Dated: November 4, 2020

McGREGOR W. SCOTT
United States Attorney

/s/ ROBERT J. ARTUZ
ROBERT J. ARTUZ
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

Dated: November 4, 2020

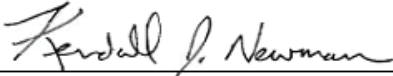
/s/ DOUG BEEVERS
DOUGLAS BEEVERS
Counsel for Defendant
HOPELYN RHIANNON AUSK

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order, which this Court incorporates by reference into this Order in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE exists to enter the above Order.

IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED.

Dated: November 5, 2020


KENDALL J. NEWMAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE